

Wally & I offered the artists have
gone to the Adirondack Mountains

New Bedford 8th mo 25th 1863-

Dear Deborah,

Had I have been as devout
as most Church going sinners are, I should
have indited an Epistle to St Deborah either
Sunday before last, or the last Sunday, but
as I worshipped in a Temple on both of
those days, not made by Hands, I am now
constrained to write a secular one - My
Health is much improved and it is all owing
to Rusticating, Vegetating, Boating and
Fishing - I don't believe the humble Fishermen
of Galilee or even Old Isaac Walton himself
enjoyed the Apologetic Amusement more
than I ^{myself} fully realise on these occasions the
full Truth of Myrns Corwin

"O'er the Glad & Water of the Dark blue Sea

Our thoughts are boundless as our souls are free,
it is such a relaxation from Care and Busi-
ness that I feel entirely independent - It
is also the same with me when in the Country,
but as I am one of the fortunate ones in never
being draught, I prefer the Sea to the Dry Land
especially in this hot sultry Season of the year.
John Hussey owns a Yatch, & I have been several
times with him sometimes being absent three
days at a time - catching our own fish & doing
our own cooking, ^{& sleeping in the Cabin} - Joey has been with us also -
I also have the use of a small row boat, and

Ms. A. 2. 31. 83

I take the Children with me to Bath. Frank
can both swim & row & little Thorne boldly
walks forth in the briny deep & in another
season he will I am in hopes be able to swim.
I always wanted the Children to learn. Joey
is expert at it. I am more especially desirous
than even as one of Frank's playmates. Mr. Edwin
Leonard's son, came near being drowned a few
weeks ^{ago} - he did not fully recover ~~for~~ his senses
for two hours - he walked into a deep hole.
That sermon of Mr. Potter seems to have given
universal satisfaction. Secy Stanton was so
much pleased with it, that he wrote on to Mr.
Potter to come to Washington and take an office
of Chaplaincy in 18th Mass Regt. & also is going to
have it printed in the Army & Navy Register - but
Mr. Potter declined going, answering that he
ought not to have any partiality shown him
that he had been often & if he passed the exam-
ination which he thinks he undoubtedly will
that then he should belong to the Government
& would serve in any capacity they chose to
put him in whether as a Private or Chaplain.
He is the true embodiment of Patriotism and
means to practice what he preaches. I went
on a steam Boat excursion week before last
to New Port - seeing Genl Hunter in the Hall
of the Fillmore House after dinner standing
alone, I went and introduced myself.

telling him that I would be the ceremony of an
introduction and as a New England man
I wished to thank him for the noble position
he had taken in his department at the South.
I felt as Wendell did toward Genl Butler,
that if we did not entirely agree in our
principles, that Genl Hunter had the good
sense & shrewdness to see that Emancipa-
tion was the only Policy to save the Government.
The Genl received me very politely & I had
a short but agreeable conversation, for the
time of my departure had come. I fortu-
nately had one of Potters Sermons, which I gave
him at the same time telling him that Secy
Hunter liked it. It has been the hottest
Summer I ever knew. I think we have
got over the worst of it, though I know that
these damp Dog Days try one's soul & as
your Mother says if one has a weak spot
he will soon find it out by the pain he feels
therein. It would have been impossible
for us to have made you a visit before
Sept, & I doubt much know whether Fanny
will be able to come, though I am in hopes
she will. All Summer she has been trying
to visit Kate but the unsettled state
of our business has prevented us. Now
Mr Denison is absent - having been gone
three weeks - his mother having been sick

* died last Friday - if he returns this week I may
go with Fanny. Last of the week if not Joey
will go with her - If she feels like making
a visit when she returns, I shall be most
happy to have her to - At any rate, I will
try & come - I thought about a month ago
that we should have settled our affairs,
but on mature reflection I declined to
accept the proposition, that we all first thought
of - Much I can tell you, which would
not be prudent to write about - Discretion
sometimes is the better part of valor - It is
Miss Harriet who is married to Mr. Mander
Fanny will probably be gone a fortnight
or more - We are all well & so are Bro. Sarah
Family - Mr. Thorne & Sarah Ann are also
well Sarah Ann stands the hot weather better
than I should think she would - This
hurry letter is written amid flies, dust
& noise leaving but little thought to enter
the brain or even to come out therefrom if
there is any there - So you will excuse the
imperfections - I want to see you more than
ever & am in hopes to before another month
elapses - I trust your Mother will improve as
the weather becomes colder - Fanny unites in
sending her best love to all -

Yr Aff friend
Joseph Ricketson